

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 200362

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS STATE 200362

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, WA

SUBJECT: NEWS ARTICLE ON "NAMIBIA BREAKTHROUGH"

REF: STATE 199184

1. THE FOLLOWING IS DEPARTMENT'S PRESS GUIDANCE CONCERNING THE ARTICLE TRANSMITTED IN REFTEL.

2. QUESTION: WOULD YOU COMMENT ON THE PRESS REPORTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA CARRIED IN THIS MORNING'S WASHINGTON POST TO THE EFFECT THAT SOUTH AFRICA PLANS TO ANNOUNCE THE FORMATION OF A MULTI-RACIAL GOVERNMENT IN NAMIBIA AND INDEPENDENCE FOR THE TERRITORY?

3. ANSWER: WE HAVE SEEN THE REPORT BUT HAVE NO BASIS ON WHICH TO CONFIRM OR DENY ITS ACCURACY. INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA WOULD BE A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. AMERICAN POLICY HAS BEEN DIRECTED TOWARDS THIS OBJECTIVE FOR MANY YEARS. SECRETARY KISSINGER REITERATED OUR COMMITMENT TO NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE IN HIS APRIL 27 SPEECH IN LUSAKA. ANY DEVELOPMENTS WHICH LEAD IN THIS DIRECTION OF NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE ARE WELCOMED BY THE UNITED STATES.

4. QUESTION: THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS REPORTS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER MAY BE CALLED ON TO NEGOTIATE WITH

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TARY KISSINGER MAY BE CALLED ON TO NEGOTIATE WITH

SWAPO. IS THIS TRUE?

5. ANSWER: THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT KNOWS OF NO
PLANS IN THIS REGARD. KISSINGER

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